

But he got that help only by coincidence, not by design. We can do better. We can design our military to be more responsive, compassionate, and helpful to soldiers like Sergeant Stevens. We can pull more soldiers back from the abyss.

I appreciate my House colleagues' support for this amendment, and I hope that in any House-Senate conference on the final DoD appropriations bill this amendment will be retained. We need this information. It will help us save lives.

**PREVENTING SEX TRAFFICKING
AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES
ACT**

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support passage of H.R. 4980, which would prevent the sex trafficking of foster youth, promote adoption, and strengthen international child support.

This measure represents an agreement with Senators WYDEN and HATCH on three bipartisan bills that the House passed overwhelmingly: the Promoting Adoption and Legal Guardianship for Children in Foster Care Act, the International Child Support Recovery Im-

provement Act, and the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Improving Opportunities for Youth in Foster Care Act. I voted to approve all three.

While this bill does not address every challenge of foster youth and child sex trafficking facing our nation, it is a positive first step. It also demonstrates Congress can work together to prevent the negative treatment of foster youth that can lead to child sex trafficking. For children involved with the state child welfare agency, states must develop methods to identify, document, and determine services for victims of child sex trafficking and those who are at risk of becoming victims. The legislation also requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a national advisory committee which will have two years to review, and recommend best practices to states to address sex trafficking of children and youth.

In my home state of Oregon, 8,686 children were in foster care on an average daily basis last year and 12,366 children spent at least one day in foster care of some kind. Nationally, the average foster child will spend nearly two years in foster care and will change homes an average of three times. The legislation also provides a much needed continuation of adoption incentives and FY14 Family Connection grants. It also includes a number of helpful provisions targeted at protecting our most vulnerable youth from becoming victims and oftentimes repeat victims of trafficking.

I will continue to work towards further efforts in Congress to end child sex trafficking and

improve our foster care system so that our communities can be safer, healthier, and more economically secure.

**TRIBUTE TO THE JEMISON
FAMILY**

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, family reunions are a way of staying connected, keeping relationships intact, strengthening bonds and recognizing heritage.

As a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, I take this opportunity to commend and congratulate the Jemison family on the occasion of their family reunion which is being held at the Best Western in Hillside, Illinois on July 24, 2014 through July 27, 2014. I commend you for the research done to establish your family tree and trust that you have a wonderful weekend.

There is nothing quite like a family reunion, there is nothing quite like seeing relatives that you have not seen for a while and there is nothing like sharing the joy of fellowship, love, and precious memories that family reunions generate. Therefore, I commend and congratulate you and pray that you have a wonderful weekend.